



Proposed Unit Citation

WTC Operations Division Asbestos Management Task Force

In compliance with the P.A.'s standing policy of ensuring worker and environmental safety at its facilities, no facility management staff have made more dramatic progress in asbestos control activities than that made by units within the World Trade Center's Operations Division.

In the Spring of 1986, it was discovered that asbestos containing materials existed in many more locations at the World Trade Center than had previously been thought and a comprehensive survey was undertaken by the Public Safety Department to determine the type and location of asbestos containing materials in the World Trade Center. At this same time, OSHA enacted a new asbestos standard, to be effective January 20, 1987, which, among other things, established certain procedures and standards for maintenance and construction workers in their incidental handling of asbestos in the workplace. Also, in recognition that airborne asbestos contamination in buildings was a significant environmental problem, the Environmental Protection Agency published in June 1985 a "Guidance for Controlling Asbestos-Containing Materials in Buildings" which in part recommended that building owners establish formal O&M programs to minimize or eliminate the generation of airborne asbestos. Meanwhile, World Trade Center tenants, maintenance and construction workers and labor unions were expressing increased concern over the potential hazard at the World Trade Center. World Trade Center management acted swiftly and sure handedly.

In Spring 1986 the World Trade Department formed an Asbestos Management Task Force within the World Trade Center Operations Division to develop and implement a plan to manage the many issues confronting them. At the time, there was little maintenance work being performed in suspected asbestos areas because of the absence of formal agreed-upon safety procedures. Widespread asbestos sampling and testing was being initiated but there was little published data available for release to tenants or contractors. No building maintenance or construction staff had received asbestos awareness training or training in the actual handling of asbestos. Through the efforts of the Task Force, nearly all Operations Division contractor and Port Authority staff who may be exposed to asbestos were trained, suspect work practices were evaluated and modified to take into account the possible presence of asbestos, emergency procedures were established, contractor staff were equipped with state of the art materials and equipment, a precautionary signage plan was developed and implemented, and a long range plan to remove asbestos from back-of-the house areas was presented to management for possible implementation. This was all done in a highly professional manner taking into account the concerns of tenants, contractors and their employees, labor unions and management.

The work of the Task Force is made all the more impressive when one considers that all but one Task Force member were WTC operating staff who undertook this work in addition to their regular duties (only one member was full time and then only for a period of 8 months). Task

e members clearly worked well beyond the traditional boundaries of their jobs in seeking resolution of complex and often ambiguous environmental, legal, labor and safety issues all while ensuring efficient use of contractor labor.

For their concerted efforts to ensure that worker and environmental safety were kept up to date at the World Trade Center in full compliance with the latest regulations and guidelines and to integrate state of the art work methods and equipment into the World Trade Center operations and maintenance programs, it is recommended that the Executive Director's Unit Citation be awarded to the WTC Operations Division Asbestos Management Task Force.

Task Force Members

T. Cancelliere	Assistant Manager	Port Authority
D. MacIntyre	Maintenance Unit Supervisor	Port Authority
R. Hohenfeld	Chief Mtnc. Supv. (Mech)	Port Authority
T. McKelvey	Chief Mtnc. Supv. (Elec)	Port Authority
J. Verbist	Chief Mtnc. Supv. (Gen)	Port Authority
A. Marciano	Ass't Superintendent (Janitorial)	Port Authority
P. Ellenbogen	Construction Superintendent (Elect)	Hatzel & Buhler
R. Waffenschmidt	Maintenance Superintendent (Elect)	Hatzel & Buhler
W. Lavin	Maintenance Superintendent (Mech)	Ogden Allied
Thorton	General Foreman (Gen)	National Cleaning Contractors
J. Keenan	Resident Manager (Janitorial)	Ogden Allied
T. Kramer	Environmental Technician	Hall-Kimbrell

M.
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